Message Text

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12

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /163 W

----- 110935

O 170735Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1680

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEIDATE

AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 5129

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, CI, CU

SUBJ: UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING, SEPT. 17,

CONCERNING CHILE

REF: A) CANBERRA 5097 B) STATE 183891 C) CANBERRA 5077 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: EMBASSY INFORMED BY DFA THAT AUSTRALIAN REP INSTRUCTED TO DO NOTHING TO PROVOKE GENERAL DEBATE DURING SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF CUBAN COMPLAINT ABOUT CHILEAN GOVERNMENT. IF, HOWEVER, DEBATE BECOMES GENERAL, AUSTRALIAN REP CAN BE EXPECTED TO REFLECT SYMPATHETIC VIEW OF AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER TOWARD ALLENDE GOVERNMENT AND STATE THAT AUSTRALIAN CONFIDENTIAL

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AMBASSADOR IN SANTIAGO HAS BEEN ORDERED HOME FOR

"CONSULTATIONS". GOA HOPES THAT DEBATE CAN BE LIMITED TO CUBAN COMPLAINT ABOUT ALLEGED ATTACKS ON ITS SHIP AND EMBASSY PREMISES. END SUMMARY.

- 2. EMBASSY INFORMED BY DFA (KELSO, ASST. SECRETARY UN BRANCH) IN LATE AFTERNOON SEPT. 17 THAT FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS SENT AUSTRALIAN REP MCINTYRE FOR FORTHCOMING SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON CHILE. KELSO INDICATED INSTRUCTIONS WERE RESULT OF DAY-LONG CONSULTATIONS IN CANBERRA. HE PROMISED TO INFORM EMBASSY IF THERE WERE ANY RADICAL CHANGES.
- 3. AUSTRALIAN REP INSTRUCTED TO DO NOTHING TO PROVOKE A GENERAL DEBATE ON INTERNAL SITUATION IN CHILE IN RESPONSE TO CUBAN REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF ALLEGED ATTACKS ON ITS SHIP A PREMISES IN SANTIAGO. KELSO NOTED THAT CHILEAN LETTER TO PRESIDENT OF SECURITY COUNCIL WAS VERY NARROWLY DEFINED AND THAT AT LEAST SUPERFICIALLY, LETTER DID NOT APPEAR TO OFFER BASIS FOR BROAD RANGING ATTACK ON INTERNAL CHILEAN SITUATION OR ON USG. HE EMPHASIZED THAT GOA HOPES DISCUSSION CAN BE CONFINED STRICTLY TO MATTERS RAISED IN CUBAN LETTER.
- 4. IF, HOWEVER, A MORE GENERAL DEBATE
 DEVELOPS DURING COURSE OF MEETING, AUSTRALIAN REP MAY
 FEEL CONSTRAINED TO SAY SOMETHING REFLEGRING PRIME
 MINISTER WHITLAM'S VIEWPOINT ALONG LINES OF PARA 4
 REF A. IN SUCH A CONTEXT, AUSTRALIAN REP MAY ALSO
 MENTION FACT THAT AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR DESCHAMPS
 HAS BEEN ORDERED BACK TO CANBERRA FOR CONSULTATIONS.
- 5. IN AN APPARENT LEAK TO AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING COMPANY, NOONTIME NEWS PROGRAM SEPT 17 IN CANBERRA REPORTED GOA HAS ASKED AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR IN CHILE TO REPORT HOME "IMMEDIATELY". IN EXPLANATION, KELSO SAYS AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR WAS DUE TO RETURN TO CANBERRA SHORTLY FOR CONSULTATIONS IN ANY CASE. HE ALSO DRAWS PARALLEL BETWEEN BRINGING AMBASSADOR FROM CHILE HOME CONFIDENTIAL

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AND BRINGING AMBASSADOR RENOUF BACK FROM FRANCE AT END OF JULY IN APPARENT PROTEST OVER FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING IN PACIFIC. IMPLIED IN BOTH THESE ACTIONS IS MINOR SHOW OF DISFAVOR TOWARD HOST GOVERNMENT BUT DRAWING BACK FROM FORMAL ACTION OF RECALL. KELSO STATED SPECIFICALLY THAT BRINGING AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR BACK FROM SANTIAGO WAS NOT RECALL.

6. IN CONVERSATION WITH IAN NICHOLSON, ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY PACIFIC AFFAIRS, DFA, IT APPEARS THAT GOA WILL WAIT AND SEE WHAT LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS DO WITH REGARD TO RECOGNIZING CHILEAN GOVERNMENT BEFORE ACTING ITSELF. NICHOLSON ALSO STATED THAT DFA IS TRYING TO PRESENT "BALANCED" PICTURE TO PRIME MINISTER, DRAWING UPON RECENT EVENTS WHICH SEEM TO INDICATE ALLENDE WAS ACTING UNCONSTITUTIONALLY. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE REFERRED TO VOTE IN CHILEAN CONGRESS THREE WEEKS AGO TO THIS EFFECT. NICHOLSON NOTED THAT PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM, WHILE SYMPATHETIC TO ALLENDE GOVERNMENT, ALSO RECOGNIZED THAT GOVERNMENT HAD ITS PROBLEMS AND HAD NOT SUCCEEDED IN MANY OF THE THINGS IT WAS ATTEMPTING TO DO.

7. WHEN ASKED IF ANY DAMAGE HAD COME TO AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN SANTIAGO, NICHOLSON NOTED EMBASSY IS HOUSED IN BUILDING ACROSS THE SQUARE FROM PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. BUILDING APPARENTLY RECEIVED SOME MINOR DAMAGE. FOR BRIEF TIME, NICHOLSON SAID, COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN EMBASSY SANTIAGO AND CANBERRA HAD BEEN SUSPENDED WHILE LOCAL FORCES SEARCHED BUILDING FOR SNIPERS. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT EMBASSY PREMISES HAD NOT BEEN ENTERED BY LOCAL FORCES AND THAT NO AUSTRALIANS HAD COME TO HARM DURING HOSTILITIES.

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